

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 122

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Representative Clarence Waters Phillips, Jr., of Bedford County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of our friend and former colleague Clarence Waters Phillips, Jr., a member of the House of Representatives of the 88th - 102nd Tennessee General Assemblies, who served from 1973 until 2002; and

WHEREAS, Clarence "Pete" Phillips, Jr., was an exemplary and conscientious public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens, especially his constituents in the 62nd House District, in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished attorney and public servant, Mr. Phillips enjoyed success in every endeavor he undertook, from the courtrooms of Tennessee to the halls of the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, born February 1, 1925, in Bedford County, Tennessee, Clarence Waters "Pete" Phillips, Jr., was the son of Bedford County Judge Clarence Waters Phillips and Laura Wilkes Phillips and graduated from Shelbyville Central High School, where he was president of his senior class; and

WHEREAS, an Eagle Scout as well as an outstanding student, he attended Vanderbilt University before entering the U.S. Army at the end of World War II for two years and participated as a corporal in an infantry division in the Battle for Okinawa in 1945; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Phillips returned to Vanderbilt to complete his undergraduate degree and pursue his chosen profession of law by also earning an LLB from Vanderbilt Law School; and

WHEREAS, as an esteemed member of the American and Tennessee Bar Associations and former state assistant attorney general, Mr. Phillips began practicing law in Shelbyville in 1951 and served as a judge for the Bedford County General Sessions Court, in addition to being a past president of the Shelbyville-Bedford County Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Representatives, Pete Phillips worked tirelessly to help the citizens of his district as his efforts led to the expansion of the Murfreesboro Highway (231) from Shelbyville to Rutherford County, secured funding for the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy in Bedford County, and saw the construction of the Shelbyville-Tullahoma Bypass (437); and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as a member of the Tennessee General Assembly, Pete Phillips served for fifteen years as Chairman of the House Calendar and Rules Committee, which considers every bill coming out of the House Committees and decides whether it will have a hearing on the floor of the House. He also chaired the House Commerce, Utilities, and Banking Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Phillips was the recipient of the Long Rifle Award for adult leadership from the Boy Scouts of America and a Distinguished Service Award from the Shelbyville Jaycees; and

WHEREAS, during his lifetime he was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Motlow College Development Council, Rotary Club, and the board of directors of Murfreesboro Federal Savings and Loan Association, Rutherford County; Bedford County Bank, Shelbyville; and Citizens State Bank, South Pittsburg; and

WHEREAS, Pete Phillips was an elder at the Shelbyville First Christian Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Mr. Phillips was preceded in death by his wife of sixty-three years, Faith Hall Phillips, and is survived by his two sons, Stephen and Will, and his two grandsons, Matt and Nate; and

WHEREAS, greatly respected and admired by his many friends and colleagues, Mr. Phillips was an outspoken and colorful gentleman who loved Tennessee and took great pride in

making his community and State a better place for all; his unmatched record in public service stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, Pete Phillips, Jr., leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of our former colleague, Representative Clarence Waters Phillips, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a legislator, public servant, and human being, and commend his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Representative Phillips.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.